Kurzweil 3000 Lesson Plan

Title: Expanded Sentences

Subject Area: English Language Arts/Writing

Grade Level: Elementary School

Rationale: The purpose of this lesson is to reinforce the understanding and use of new vocabulary while giving the students a chance to demonstrate their ability to create complete, expanded sentences. Kurzweil 3000 is used for students who need the support of a talking word processor and speaking spell check.

Objectives:

* Students will use ten words imaginatively and correctly in their own, original sentences.
* They will include a subject, verb, adjective and prepositional phrase.

Materials:

* Kurzweil 3000 Dictionary
* Expanded Sentences Worksheet, scanned

Procedure:

Students are given a list of vocabulary words. They can use the Kurzweil 3000 dictionary to help them define the word. They are then required to create their own sentences using the worksheet. Students can use spell check and text-to-speech to proofread their work.

Extension Activities:

Once the students have demonstrated mastery of the new words, they can produce an essay or story that uses all of the words.

Kurzweil 3000 Features Used:

* Scanning (by teacher)
* Dictionary
* Fill-in-the-blanks
* Footnote (inserted by teacher for clarification)
* Text-to-speech
* Speaking Spell Check

Suggestions for Replication:

This activity can be used for a variety of curriculum specific vocabulary words.

This lesson plan is interesting because it teaches vocabulary, word usage and how to use a dictionary. It can effectively meet the needs of a wide range of students. The word list can be tailored to the abilities of the individual student.

The use of the Kurzweil 3000 allows for the visually impaired to participate in this activity. It’s onboard dictionary enables these kids to look up word definitions. Those with motor skill difficulty, who cannot use pen and paper, can use the Kurzweil 3000 to type their work.

A modification I would make to this lesson plan would be to add a preliminary step to the activity. Rather than having the students go straight to creating sentences, I would have them first focus their energy on writing definitions of the words. The students can increase their vocabularies and practice using the dictionary. The visually impaired can use the Kurzweil 3000’s speaking dictionary. Once the students can define the words then they can begin using them in created sentences.

The principals of UDL allow for a lesson to meet the needs of students with a wide range of abilities and learning styles.

Assistive technology can aid UDL by enabling children with various impairments to participate and benefit from a given lesson.

Curriculum content can be narrowed or expanded depending on the abilities of the students. Those who can do more should be encouraged to do more. Those who cannot should be challenged to do as much as they can. Hopefully they all will be able to benefit from a given lesson.